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SECRET

Wed Oct 23, 1991

EXCISE

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China: STARTING NPT RATIFICATION

The standing committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) will discuss accession to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) at a meeting scheduled to begin on October 25, according to *Xinhua*.

BI AS

Comment: Beijing appears to be following up on Premier Li Peng's August announcement that China would accede to the NPT. Though the NPT could be ratified at the standing committee meeting.

BI AS

(SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON/EXDIS)

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